WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biopsy localization device comprising:

a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a soft tissue biopsy site of a patient; and

said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery state at the biopsy site, the bioabsorbable element being palpably harder than the surrounding soft tissue at the biopsy site when in the post-delivery state.

2. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a delivery device for delivering the bioabsorable element in the predelivery state to a soft tissue biopsy site.

3. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element is of a different hardness in the post-delivery state as in the pre-delivery state.

4. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as breast tissue in the post-delivery state.

5. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element swells about 50 to 1500 percent from the pre-delivery state to the post-delivery state when placed in contact with an aqueous liquid.

6. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a first shape in the pre-delivery state and a second shape in the post-delivery state.

7. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element has one consistency in the pre-delivery state and a different consistency in the post-delivery state.

8. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a longest dimension of at least about 0.5cm when in the post-delivery state.

9. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element made of collagen.

10. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element comprises a therapeutic agent.

11. The device according to claim 10 wherein the therapeutic agent comprises at least a chosen one of a chemotherapeutic agent, a radiation agent and a gene therapy agent.

12. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element comprises reservoir means for subsequently receiving a therapeutic agent.

13. The device according to claim 12 wherein the reservoir means comprises reservoir means for receiving a chemotherapy agent.

14. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element comprises a hemostatic agent.

15. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element comprises at least one of the following materials: polyactic and polyglycolic acids, polyorthoesters, resorbable silicones and urethanes, lipids, collagens, polysaccharides, starches, ceramics, polyamino acids, proteins, hydrogels and other gels, gelatins, polymers and cellulose .

16. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element changes from the pre-delivery state to the post-delivery state upon contact with an aqueous environment.

17. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element is physically different in its pre-delivery state than in its post-delivery state.

18. The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorable element comprises a bioabsorable filament.

19. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a marker element located generally centrally within the bioabsorable element.

20. The device according to claim 19 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque marker element.

21. The device according to claim 19 wherein said marker element comprises a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

22. A biopsy localization method comprising:

taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;

positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site at the time of the taking of the tissue sample;

testing the tissue sample; and

if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the biopsy site by finding the bioabsorbable element.

23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the positioning step is carried out using said bioabsorable element and a radiopaque marker.

24. The method according to claim 23 wherein the relocating step is carried out using a radiographic technique.

25. The method according to claim 23 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a chosen one of a permanent radiopaque marker and a temporary radiopaque marker.

26. The method according to claim 22 wherein the relocating step is carried out by at least one of:

palpation of the patient to feel the bioabsorbable element;

locating inflammation at the biopsy site caused by the bioabsorbable element;

following a bioabsorbable thread, the thread extending from the patient's skin to the bioabsorbable element; and

remotely visualizing the bioabsorbable element.

27. The method according to claim 26 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out by at least a chosen one of ultrasound, MRI and mammography.

28. The method according to claim 22 wherein the tissue sample taking step is carried out using a needle biopsy technique.

29. The method according to claim 22 wherein the tissue sample taking step is carried out using a surgical excisional biopsy technique.

30. The method according to claim 22 wherein the tissue sample taking step is carried out within a soft tissue.

31. The method according to claim 22 further comprising the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

32. The method according to claim 22 further comprising selecting a hemostatic bioabsorbable element and providing hemostasis at the target site by the hemostatic bioabsorbable element.

33. The method according to claim 32 wherein the hemostasis providing step is provided by at least one of mechanical or chemical hemostatic techniques.

34. The method according to claim 32 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the hemostatic bioabsorbable element until the hemostatic bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site.

35. The method according to claim 34 wherein the effectively preventing step is carried out using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic degradable outer layer so the hemostasis providing step is a time-delayed hemostasis providing step.

36. The method according to claim 34 wherein the effectively preventing step includes the step of physically isolating the hemostatic bioabsorbable element from contact with blood until it is at the biopsy site.

37. The method according to claim 22 wherein the bioabsorbable element positioning step is carried out by at least one of:

injecting a flowable bioabsorbable element through a hollow member;

pushing a nonflowable bioabsorbable element through a hollow member; and

guiding a solid bioabsorbable element to the target site.

38. The method according to claim 37 wherein the flowable bioabsorbable element injecting step is carried out using a biopsy needle.

39. The method according to claim 22 further comprising the step of changing the bioabsorbable element from a pre-delivery state prior to the positioning step to a post-delivery state after the positioning step.

40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the changing step is carried out by at least one of the following: hydration, changing temperature, electrical stimulation, magnetic stimulation, chemical reaction with a first additional material, physical interaction with a second additional material, ionization, absorption and adsorption.

41. The method according to claim 27 further comprising the step of placing a marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element at the target site.

42. The method according to claim 41 wherein the placing step takes place simultaneously with the positioning step.

43. The method according to claim 41 wherein the placing step is carried out using a radiopaque marker element.

44. The method according to claim 41 wherein the biopsy site relocating step comprises the step of remotely visualizing the marker element.

45. A medical treatment method comprising:

taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;

positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site at the time of the taking of the tissue sample;

testing the tissue sample;

if the testing indicates a need to do so, and medically treating the biopsy site.

46. The method according to claim 45 wherein the medically treating step comprises activating an agent carried by the bioabsorbable element.

47. The method according to claim 46 wherein the activating step is carried out by at least one of:

injecting a radiation-emitting element at the vicinity of the target site;

externally irradiating the target site; and

providing a triggering substance to the agent.

48. The method according to claim 45 wherein the medically treating step comprises delivering a therapeutic agent to the target site.

49. The method according to claim 48 wherein the delivering step is carried out using at least one of:

a chemotherapy agent;

a radiation-emitting element;

thermal energy;

ionization energy;

gene therapy;

vector therapy;

electrical therapy;

vibrational therapy; and

anti-angiogenesis.

50. The method according to claim 45 further comprising the step of relocating the biopsy by finding the bioabsorbable element.

51. The method according to claim 50 wherein the relocating step is carried out prior to the medically treating step.

52. The method according to claim 51 wherein the medical treating step comprises removal of tissue.